

Message Text

PAGE 01 THE HA 01992 181608Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-10 /071 W

----- 076201

R 181522Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5722

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NATO, NL

SUBJ: LABOR PARTY CONGRESS: STATE SECRETARY BRINK-
HORST'S COMMENTS.

REF: THE HAGUE 1907

1. SUMMARY. FONOFF STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST'S ASSESSMENT OF
THE RECENT LABOR PARTY CONGRESS IS THAT THE EXTREMISTS
MAY HAVE PAINTED THE PARTY INTO A CORNER FROM WHICH IT
WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN EXTRICATING ITSELF FOR THE NEXT
ELECTION CAPAIGN. THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WILL BE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 01992 181608Z

BOUND TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS ANTI-NATO RESOLU-
TIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS IN PREAPRING FOR THE NEXT
ELECTION CAMPAIGN, WHENEVER IT MAY OCCUR, AND THIS IS
ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL BECOME ACUTE, ACCORDING

TO BRINKHORST. HE FORESEES THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPLIT, WITH THE MODERATES WHO SUPPORT NATO LEAVING THE LABOR PARTY AND ATTEMPTING TO FORM A NEW LEFT-OF-CENTER BUT NON-MARXIST PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM RIGHT AFTER THE LABOR PARTY CONGRESS BRINKHORST INDICATED THAT HIS VIEWS WERE SPECULATIVE AT THIS POINT, AND FORESAW THAT THE MODERATE BREAK-AWAY GROUP MIGHT BE ABLE TO JOIN WITH THE REMNANTS OF D-166 (HIS OWN PARTY), DS-70 (WHICH IS ONLY SOMEWHAT LESS FAR DOWN THE TUBE) AND LEFT-WING CATHOLICS WHO WOULD BE LOOKING FOR A MORE PROGRESSIVE DECONFESSIONALIZED POLITICAL "HOME." IF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED, BRINKHORST CONTINUED, THEN THE REGULAR LABOR PARTY WITH ITS MUCH MORE LEFTIST ANTI-NATO BIAS MIGHT WELL BE DEPRIVED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY ITS PRESENT 43 SEATS IN THE 150-MEMBER SECOND CHAMBER. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE LABOR PARTY MIGHT BE FORCED TO GO INTO OPPOSITION ONCE AGAIN. BRINKHORST DID NOT COMMENT ON WHAT SORT OF COALITION IT MIGHT THEN BE POSSIBLE TO PUT TOGETHER.

3. BRINKHORST THOUGHT THAT THE FEAR OF A FURTHER "RADICALIZATION" OF THE LABOR PARTY LEADING TO A POSSIBLE SPLIT WOULD EXERT PRESSURE ON ITS LEADERS TO KEEP THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ALIVE UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF ITS TERM IN 1977. SINCE THE ANTI-NATO RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE PARTY CONGRESS HAD NO SHORT-TERM BINDING EFFECT, HE BELIEVED IT WAS IN NATO'S INTEREST FOR THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT TO STAY IN OFFICE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO THE VOCIFEROUS SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE CONGRESS TO THE ADAMANT OPPOSITION OF THE LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO THE PURCHASE OF ANY HIGH-PERFORMANCE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING THE F-16. EVEN THOUGH THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HAD THE POWER TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE ISSUE, HE THOUGHT WISER HEADS IN THE PARTY WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 01992 181608Z

PREVAIL. IN BRINKHORST'S JUDGMENT, AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN OSTENSIBLY WAGED OVER THE KIND OF REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT THE NETHERLANDS NEEDED AND SHOULD BUY WOULD BE QUICKLY TURNED BY THE CONFESSIOANAL AND LIBERAL PARTIES TO A CAMPAIGN FOR OR AGAINST NATO. LABOR PARTY LEADERS KNEW THAT THEY WOULD LOSE AN ELECTION IN WHICH THEIR OPPONENTS WERE EMOTIONALLY CHARGING THEM AS BEING ANTI-NATO.

4. BRINKHORST FOOTNOTED A COMMENT THAT THIS LABOR PARTY CONGRESS, LIKE PREVIOUS ONES, HAD A MUCH LARGER PERCENTAGE OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AMONG ITS DELEGATES THAN THE CONGRESSES OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES. THUS,

GIVEN THE FAR-LEFT VIEWS HELD BY MANY DUTCH PROFESSORS,
THE RADICAL RHETORIC AT THE LABOR PARTY CONGRESS WAS
NOT SURPRISING. IT WAS NOT ALL JUST RHETORIC, HOWEVER,
BRINKHORST CONCLUDED, FOR A SIGNIFICANT BODY OF EDUCATED
YOUNGER DUTCH PEOPLE BELIEVED IN EXTREME LEFT-WING
CAUSES, INCLUDING THE EARLY END OF THE NETHERLANDS'
MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.
GOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL PARTIES, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA01992
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750137-0540
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504102/baaaaezm.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> sph 971124
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, NL, LABOR PARTY, NATO, PINT
To: STATE INFO NATO
ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN

LISBON
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
OSLO
OTTAWA
PARIS
REYKJAVIK
ROME

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006